

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
April 2, 1981

Mr. John F. Ahearne, Chairman
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Ahearne:

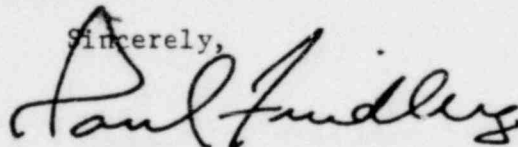
Last year I brought to your attention the fact that NRC regulations requiring armed escorts of high level nuclear waste shipments around cities of more than 100,000 people were causing shippers to carry these dangerous cargoes over back country roads in order to avoid large cities. In effect, federal regulations designed to increase the safety and security of these shipments were making them less safe and secure.

As a result, NRC sought assurance from shippers that they would use only interstate highways to transport spent nuclear fuel. At the same time, Illinois passed a law which bans all out-of-state spent fuel shipments, and none have occurred since December 3, 1980.

Currently, the Department of Transportation is considering regulations which will require future shipments to be made only on interstate highways. When those regulations go into effect--now scheduled for February 1, 1982--the Illinois law banning all such shipments will become null and void.

My purpose in writing is to secure your assurance that NRC will not approve non-interstate shipment of spent nuclear fuel--either now or in the foreseeable future--except where necessary to gain access to the interstate system or to an approved storage/disposal facility.

Sincerely,



Paul Findley
Representative in Congress